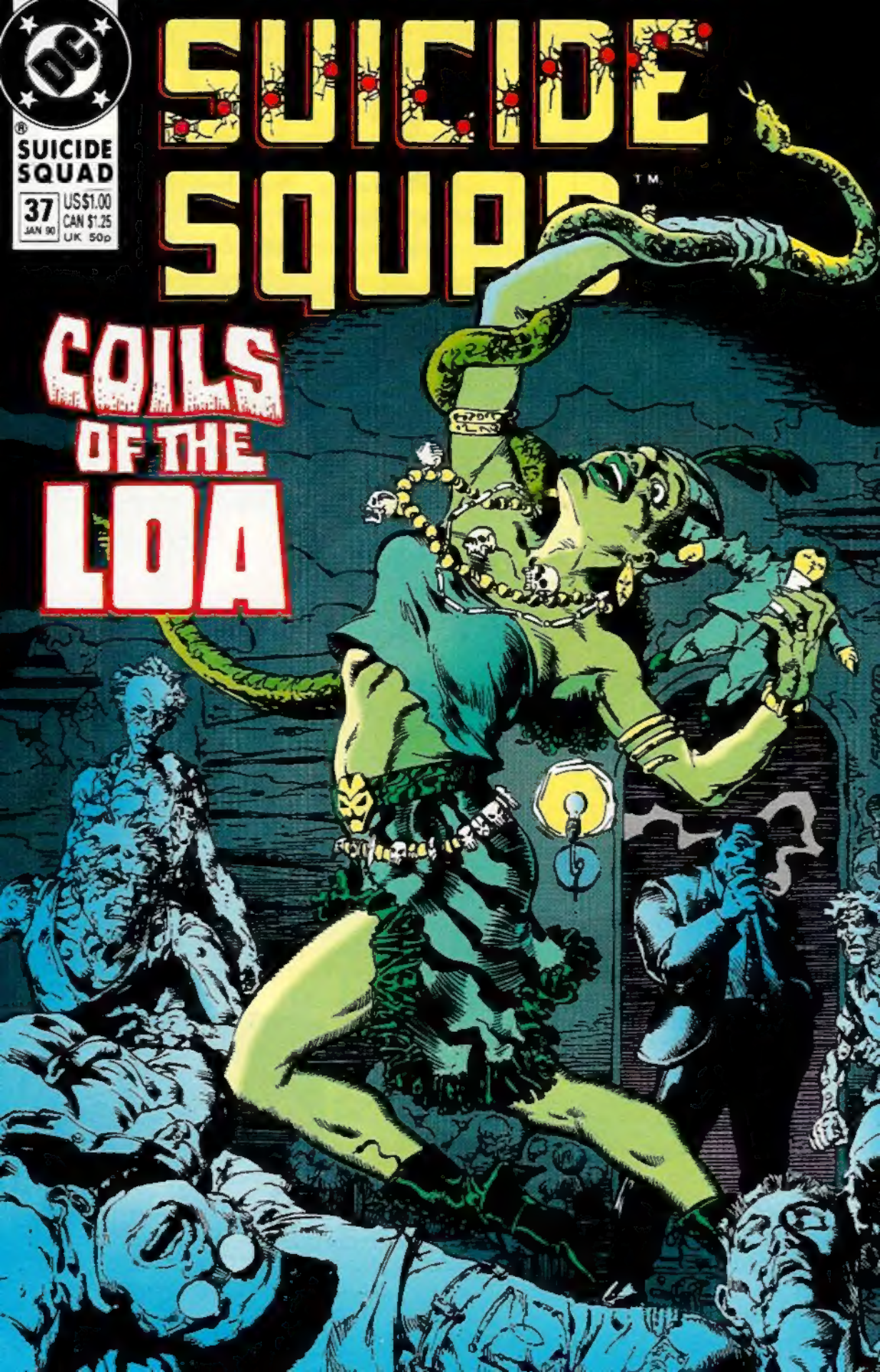

DC
SUICIDE SQUAD
37
JAN 90
US$1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50p
SUICIDE SQUAD
COILS OF THE LOA

JOHN OSTRANDER* KIM YALE
WRITERS

JOHN K. SNYDER III
BREAKDOWNS

GEOF ISHERWOOD
TODD KLEIN
LETTERER

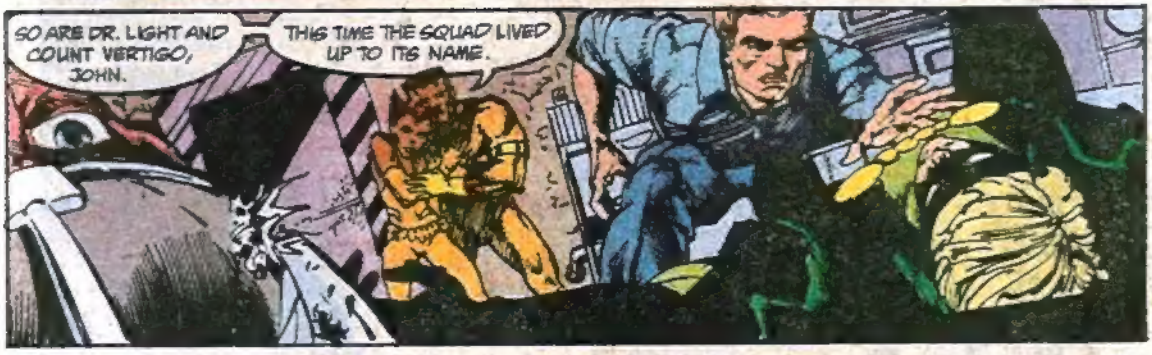
CARL GAFFORD
COLORIST

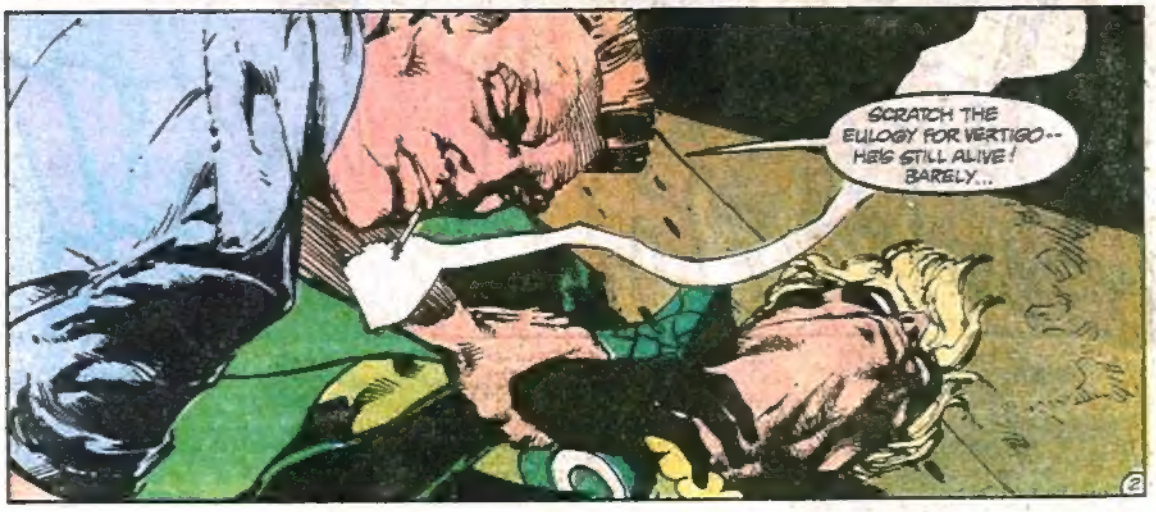
DAN RASPLER
EDITOR

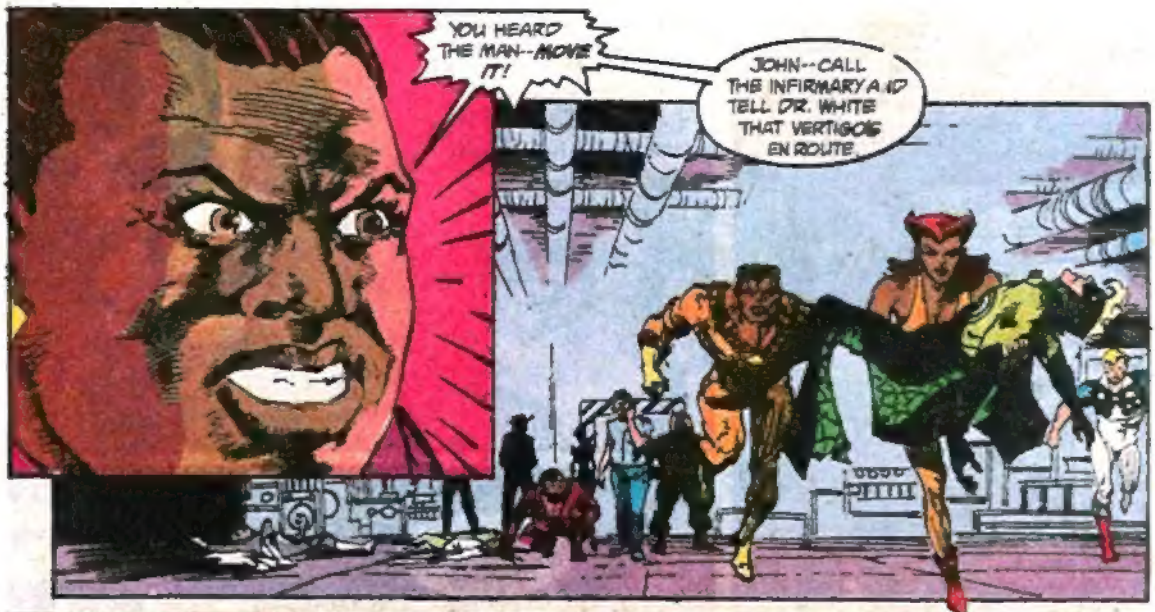
SUICIDE SQUAD 37. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUICIDE SQUAD, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00, Canada $17.00, all other foreign $24.00. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1989 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 356 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Company
G-53/7

FLO...? O GOD, AMANDA--SHE'S NOT MOVING.

FLO'S DEAD, JOHN.


SO ARE DR. LIGHT AND COUNT VERTIGO, JOHN.
THIS TIME THE SQUAD LIVED UP TO ITS NAME.


SCRATCH THE EULOGY FOR VERTIGO--HE'S STILL ALIVE! BARELY...


YOU HEARD THE MAN--MOVE IT!
JOHN--CALL THE INFIRMARY AND TELL DR. WHITE THAT VERTIGO'S EN ROUTE.

WE SORTA "BORROWED" THESE TWO FROM ARKHAM ASYLUM. YOU WANT THEM SHIPPED BACK?

I CAN'T BELIEVE A GIRL LIKE ME WAS SO GULLIBLE AS TO BE TAKEN IN BY THE LIKES OF LASHINA, AND I'D LIKE TO MAKE AMENDS. PUT THINGS TO RIGHT, IF I CAN.
I WANT TO STAY.

STAY, GO; IT'S FINE BY ME. DEADSHOT'S MARGINALLY USEFUL. NOTIFY ARKHAM, MURPH, AND LET ECONOMOS HANDLE ANY FLACK.
I'VE GOT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO TEND TO. EDNA MAE WAS NEVER THE EASIEST COUSIN TO TALK WITH--AND I'VE GOT TO TELL HER HER DAUGHTER'S DAGGED.

SHE ALWAYS BEAT ME, YOU KNOW. AT BACKGAMMON, I MEAN.
JOHN...
DON'T LEAVE, EVE. NOT...JUST YET.

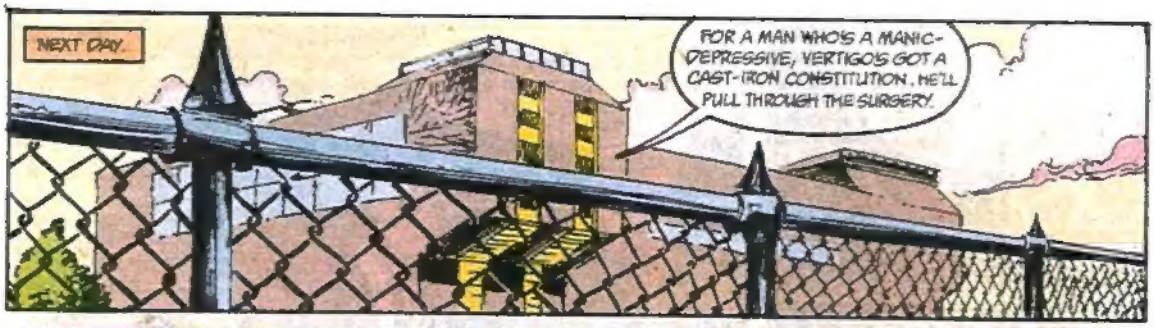
WHY DON'T WE GO SEE FATHER CRAEMER, OKAY?
OKAY. TIME THE BUM EARNED HIS SALARY FOR ONCE.

CAN WE GIVE YOU A LIFT HOME, BARDA?

YES. TIME FOR THE WARRIOR'S WELCOME. TIME FOR THE WARRIOR'S REST.
TAKE ME HOME TO SCOTT, MARK.

YUCK, YUCK, YUCK. WONDER WHAT MADE HIM ACT LIKE THAT?
CREEPIN' HEROISM, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS. YOU RUB SHOULDERS WITH THESE GOODY-TWO-SHOES LONG ENOUGH, YER THINKIN' GOES DAFT. AND WHAT'S THAT GETCHER? DEAD.
GO STRAIGHT? EEEUUUUHHH!
HE WAS SUCH A DWEEB ANYWAY...
RIGHT YOU ARE, MATE. A REAL DILLBRAIN, THAT ONE...
KICK
THAT'S THE THANKS I GET-- A KICK IN THE RIBS! I DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS! I DIED AS A HERO!
LOSER!
LOSER!
LOSER!
TAP TAP
YOU DESERVE BETTER? I DESERVE BETTER THAN TO BE STUCK WITH A SNIVELLING WHINER LIKE YOU FOR ETERNITY!
YOU TAKE THAT BACK! YOU TAKE THAT BACK RIGHT NOW OR I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

NYAH NYAH! CAN'T KILL A GHOST!
OH YEAH? HOW ABOUT HURTING ONE?!
SO YOU SAY DARKSEID ATOMIZED LASHINA. WHAT ABOUT SHADE?
DARKSEID SAID HE WAS SENDING EVERYONE TO THEIR HOME. SINCE SHADE'S HOME IS FAR FROM EARTH, PERHAPS...
"...HE HAS RETURNED HIM TO META."
IT IS JUST AS WELL DARKSEID ACTED SO SUMMARILY. WHAT WOULD I HAVE SAID TO THE OTHERS? HOW WOULD I JUSTIFY MY ACTIONS TO THAT DEAD WOMAN'S KIN?
I AM GOING HOME -- AND THE PRICE PAID FOR MY RETURN IS UNTENABLE, FOR ANOTHER PAID THAT PRICE.
I OWE A DEBT THAT SOMEDAY I WILL REPAY.

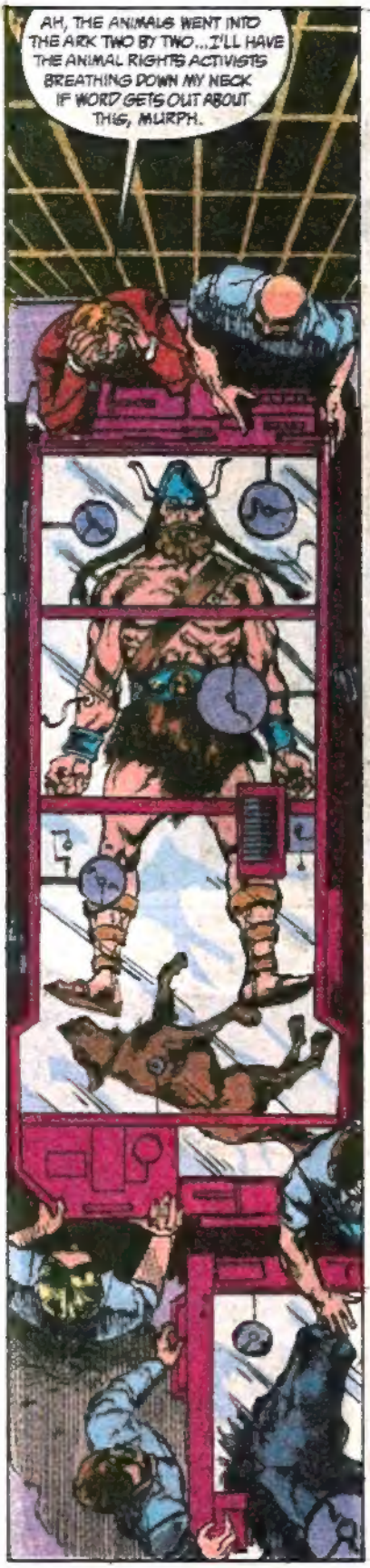

NEXT DAY.
FOR A MAN WHO'S A MANIC-DEPRESSIVE, VERTIGO'S GOT A CAST-IRON CONSTITUTION. HE'LL PULL THROUGH THE SURGERY.

AS FOR FLO... WE'RE READY TO TAKE HER BODY HOME.
OKAY. FATHER, I APPRECIATE YOUR GOING WITH.
I'M GLAD I CAN HELP.

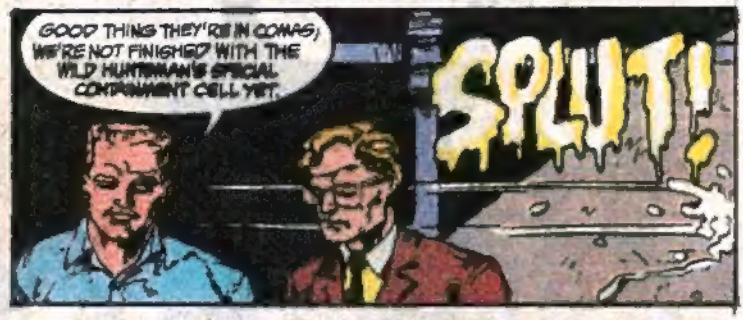
I STILL THINK IT'S WRONG OF EDNA MAE TELLING YOU TO STAY AWAY.

WELL, THAT MAY BE, BUT I DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST HER.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A CHILD. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE, MARY. IT'S HARD TO STAY RATIONAL.

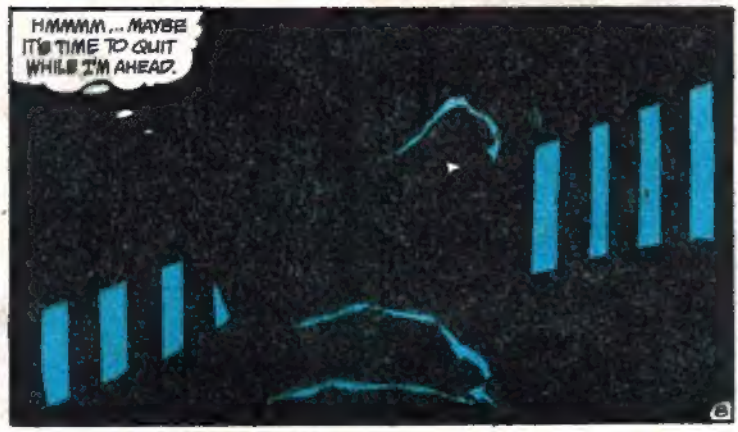

AH, THE ANIMALS WENT INTO THE ARK TWO BY TWO... I'LL HAVE THE ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BREATHING DOWN MY NECK IF WORD GETS OUT ABOUT THIS, MURPH.

MR. KALE, IN THIS CASE, THE MAN, DOG AND HORSE SHARE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP. SEPARATE THEM AND ALL THREE START DYING.


GOOD THING THEY'RE IN COMAS, WE'RE NOT FINISHED WITH THE WILD HUNTSMAN'S SPECIAL CONTAINMENT CELL YET.
SPLUT!

IF I HAVE TO TEAR THIS PLACE APART BRICK BY BRICK, I'M GOING TO FIND WHO DID THIS AND FLAY HIM-- OR HER--ALIVE!

THINK IT'S TIME TO STEP UP MY INVESTIGATION. THIS NONSENSE HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.


HMMMM... MAYBE IT'S TIME TO QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD.

YEAGER FIELD.

THANKS FOR STAYING A LITTLE LONGER, EVE.

ONLY FOR YOU, JOHNNY ECONOMY. ONLY FOR YOU.

ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING YOURSELF INTO HERE, MARI? SARGE STEEL ISN'T EXACTLY MISS CONGENIALITY. HE'S EXPECTING ONLY BEN.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE STEEL UNDERSTANDS WHY BEN DISOBEYED HIS ORDERS.

IT'S ALL PRO FORMA, MARI. NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT. BUT I SURE APPRECIATE THE COMPANY.

HANG IN THERE, JOHN. BE BACK SOON.

BEN'S KEEPING A VERY COOL FACE IN FRONT OF MARI.

BUT THERE'S A VERY REAL CHANCE HE WON'T BE A MEMBER OF THE SQUAD AFTER HIS MEETING WITH STEEL--MUCH LESS *LEADING* IT.

OUTSIDE MOSCOW
<COME..>
HYAAAH!
HURRRRR...!
GURK!
URK!
BIRRRAAPPP!

BRAAAPP
BRAAP
BRAAP
ARGHK!
PTOIT!

STALNOVOLK, THAT'S ENOUGH. WE DON'T WANT TO KILL MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY NEEDLESSLY
ENOUGH, I SAID!

YOU SEE, COMRADE RASKOV? THE STEEL WOLF IS COMPLETELY RECOVERED
WHAT A BRUTE! IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE IS WELL OVER EIGHTY.
A SIDE EFFECT OF THE SERUM THAT TURNED A PEASANT NAMED IVAN ILLYICH GORT INTO A STEEL WOLF
A PITY THAT STALIN HAD THE FORMULA DESTROYED AFTER GORT WAS CREATED. WE MIGHT HAVE AS MANY METAHUMANS AS AMERICA BY NOW, WERE IT NOT FOR STALIN'S...DISTRUST OF THEM
THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW WHO STILL WONDER IF STALIN WASN'T CORRECT
NOW...THANKS TO THE METAGENE EXPLOSION, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEM IN OUR MIDST. WHICH IS WHY YOU NEED ME AND I NEED STALNOVOLK.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD, COMRADE ZASTROW? OUR SOCIETY HAS A NEW "OPENNESS." WE ARE GOING TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE DECADENT WEST. IT IS A NEW DAY IN THE USSR.
WHY, THAT'S WHAT THEY'VE EVEN CALLED THE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PLACE THESE "METAHUMANS" AND "PARANORMALS" INTO EVERY LEVEL OF SOCIETY-- "NEW DAY."
I ASSUME "EVERY" LEVEL ALSO INCLUDES THE KGB?
OH YES.
THE AMERICANS HAVE PROVEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARANORMALS IN THEIR INTELLIGENCE GROUPS SUCH AS CHECKMATE AND SUICIDE SQUAD. YES? IT'S TIME WE HAD AN ANSWER TO THEM.
THE CODE NAME FOR OUR GROUP WILL BE RED SHADOWS. AND YOU ARE TO HEAD IT, ZASTROW.
SO YOU HAVE SAID BUT I MUST BE FREE TO CHOOSE MY OWN PEOPLE AND I WANT STALNOVOLK.
SIGHHH! THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE KREMLIN WHO REMEMBER GORT, MY FRIEND, AND THE PART HE PLAYED IN STALIN'S PURGES IN THE FIFTIES.
GORT IS STILL AN UNREPENTANT STALINIST HARD-LINER.
AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHO THINK IT IS GOOD TO HAVE MEN LIKE GORT STILL AROUND.
THAT, EVEN IN THE AGE OF PERESTROIKA, A SOCIETY CAN BECOME TOO OPEN.
HERE, I THINK, WE ARE IN PERFECT AGREEMENT. YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR STEEL WOLF, COMRADE ZASTROW.
IN THAT CASE, COMRADE, I SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT THE POST AS HEAD OF RED SHADOWS. SPACIBO.

A CRACK HOUSE IN NEW ORLEANS.

BAM BAM!

ERNESTO! THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR. CHECK IT OUT.

YEAH YEAH YEAH YEAH, I'M GOIN'.

YER WORSE THAN MY MA, HAMAD. NAG NAG NAG, ALLA DAY.

OOOH, MAMA! TELL ME WHATCHOO WANT AN' I TELL YOU WHAT I WANT, HOKAY?

JE N'SUIS PAS *TA MAMAN, ÔTRE!* I AM *MAMBO* AND I COME FROM *DAMBALLAH* TO SAY THAT YOU INFRINGE ON *LOA* TERRITORY AND, MON MON *TOMA*, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS MUST GO.

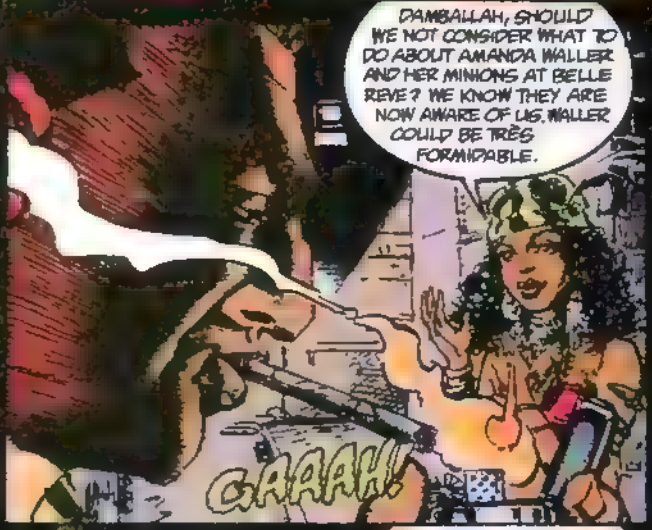
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

SLAM

"MAMBO", HUH? WE AIN'T IMPRESSED.

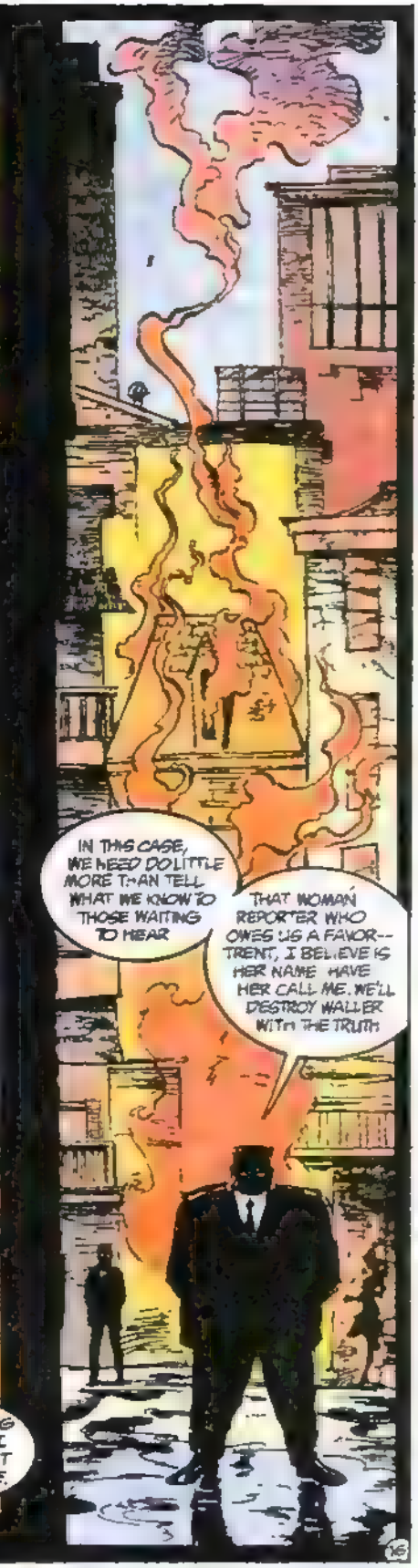
MAAN OH MAN OH MAN! I WARNED CHICK ABOUT DIS!
DIS LOA, MAN--THEY'S NOT JUST ANOTHER GANG, OKAY? THEY INTA VOUDOU! SCARY STUFF, MAN!
BAM BAM
A VOODOO MAFIA SCARY. RIGHT
GET SERIOUS, RITCHIE.
OKAY, MAMA OR MAMBO OR WHATEVER, YOU WANT SOME--
--MORE--
WHAT I TELL YOU?! ZOMBIES! MAN OH MAN OH MAN--!!
KRASHH!
SHUT UP AND SHOOT 'EM, RITCHIE!
BLAM! BLAM!
AAAHIEEEE!!

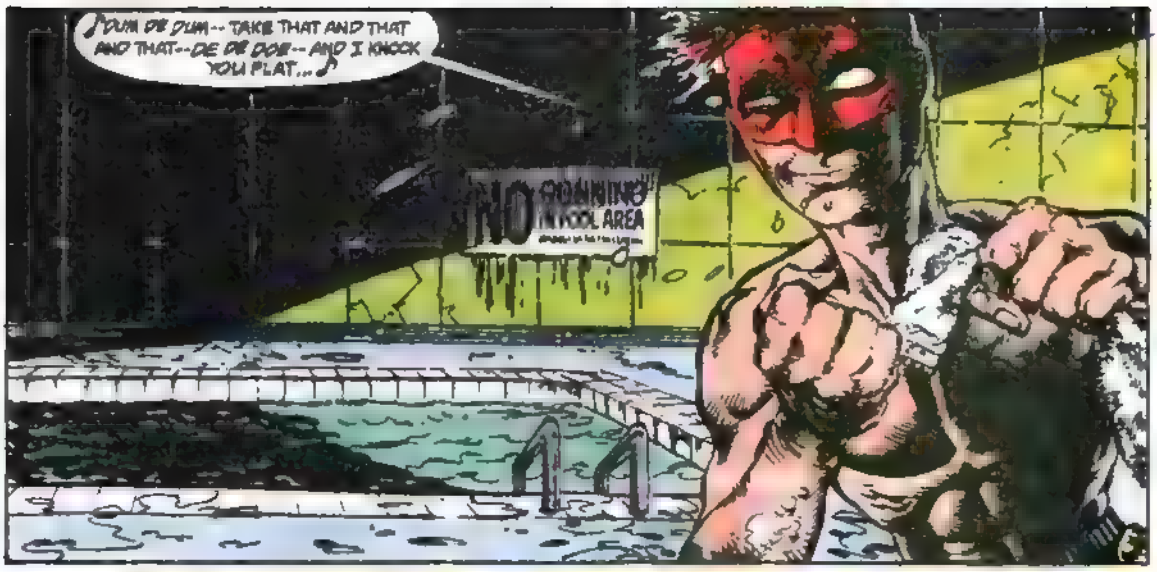
CONGRATULATIONS, BOCOR. THE *BAZA* PERFORMS FLAWLESSLY--AS USUAL. THIS TIME TOMORROW, MAMBO AND THE PETRA SHOULD BE ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH US WITHOUT PROBLEMS.
THANK YOU, DAMBALLAH.
NO! NO!
AYYYAAAAAAAHH!
HELLUP!


DAMBALLAH, SHOULD WE NOT CONSIDER WHAT TO DO ABOUT AMANDA WALLER AND HER MINIONS AT BELLE REVE? WE KNOW THEY ARE NOW AWARE OF US. WALLER COULD BE TRÈS FORMIDABLE.
GAAAAH!

I HAVE *GIVEN* IT SOME THOUGHT. I HAVE DECIDED WE MUST CRUSH WALLER UTTERLY.
SHALL I CALL IN THE OTHER HOUNGANS, DAMBALLAH--RAISE MORE ZOMBIES?

NO, NO. OPEN WARFARE IS TOO *RISKY*.
SOMETHING *SUBTLER*, I THINK, BUT VERY *SURE*.

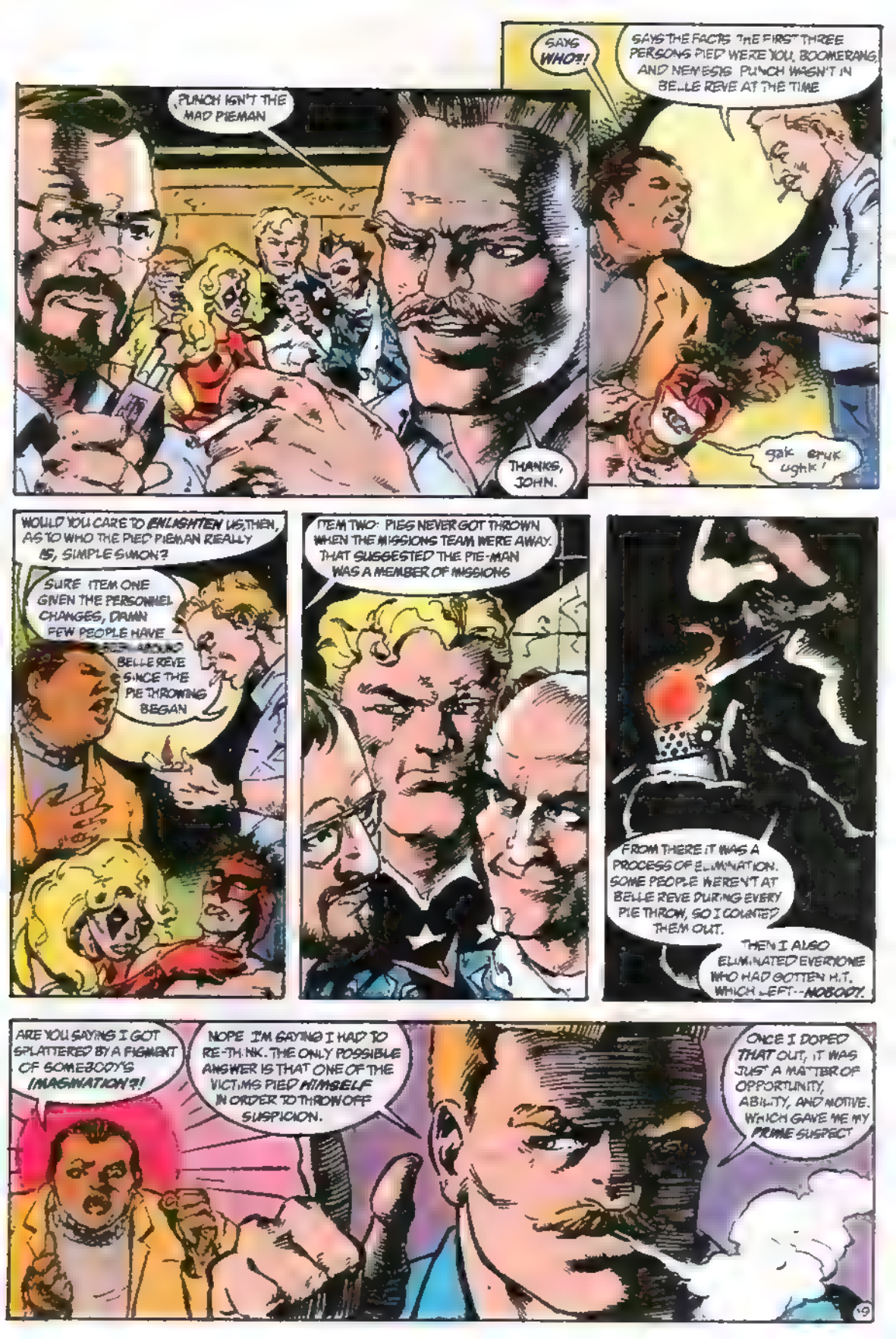

IN THIS CASE, WE NEED DO LITTLE MORE THAN TELL WHAT WE KNOW TO THOSE WAITING TO HEAR
THAT WOMAN REPORTER WHO OWES US A FAVOR--TRENT, I BELIEVE IS HER NAME. HAVE HER CALL ME. WE'LL DESTROY WALLER WITH THE TRUTH.


♪DUM DE DUM-- TAKE THAT AND THAT AND THAT--DE DE DOE-- AND I KNOCK YOU FLAT...♪
NO SWIMMING IN POOL AREA

DUM♪
de♩
Dum♩.
De♪
Dum♩
Dum♪
Dum♩

OOHH!

LEMON MERINGUE--BLECH! NOT MY CHOICE FOR THROWING. NOW, COCONUT CUSTARD--
YOU CREEP! YOU PIED ME, YOUR OWN SWEET LI'L WIFEY! I'M GONNA RIP OUT YOUR EYES! I'M GONNA TEAR OUT YOUR LUNGS! I'M GONNA YANK YOUR LYING TONGUE OUT OF YOUR HEAD!
AND THEN WE GET PERSONAL!
PUNKIN, NO--ARGK!
CHILD, CHILD--MARITAL DISPUTES SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DISCUSSION, NOT BY VIOLENCE
THIS IS YOUR HUSBAND.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AIN'T MARRIED TO THE WEASEL--AND HE PIED ME FIRST!
I WAS FRAMED! EFF-ARR-AY-EM-EE-DEE, FRAMED! I DIDN'T DO IT!
HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.
GRRRK!


PUNCH ISN'T THE MAD PIEMAN
THANKS, JOHN.
SAYS WHO?!
SAYS THE FACTS. THE FIRST THREE PERSONS PIED WERE YOU, BOOMERANG, AND NEMESIS. PUNCH WASN'T IN BELLE REVE AT THE TIME.
gak eruk ughk!
WOULD YOU CARE TO ENLIGHTEN US, THEN, AS TO WHO THE PIED PIEMAN REALLY IS, SIMPLE SIMON?
SURE. ITEM ONE: GIVEN THE PERSONNEL CHANGES, DAMN FEW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN AROUND BELLE REVE SINCE THE PIE THROWING BEGAN.
ITEM TWO: PIES NEVER GOT THROWN WHEN THE MISSIONS TEAM WERE AWAY. THAT SUGGESTED THE PIE-MAN WAS A MEMBER OF MISSIONS.
FROM THERE IT WAS A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION. SOME PEOPLE WEREN'T AT BELLE REVE DURING EVERY PIE THROW, SO I COUNTED THEM OUT.
THEN I ALSO ELIMINATED EVERYONE WHO HAD GOTTEN HIT, WHICH LEFT--NOBODY.
ARE YOU SAYING I GOT SPLATTERED BY A FIGMENT OF SOMEBODY'S IMAGINATION?!
NOPE. I'M SAYING I HAD TO RE-THINK. THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER IS THAT ONE OF THE VICTIMS PIED HIMSELF IN ORDER TO THROW OFF SUSPICION.
ONCE I DOPED THAT OUT, IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF OPPORTUNITY, ABILITY, AND MOTIVE. WHICH GAVE ME MY PRIME SUSPECT.

I HAD THE CAMERAS MAINTAIN CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE ON MY TARGET. WE WATCHED THE SUSPECT PUT THE PIES IN PUNCH'S LOCKER, SETTING UP THE FRAME.

AND WE GOT IT ALL ON VIDEOTAPE

TAG, BOOMERBUTT.

YOU'RE IT.

YER MAGGOTTY, MATE! I GOT HIT BY THAT PIE JUST AS I ENTERED THE MISGIONG ROOM. THE WALL HERSELF SAW IT ALL HAPPEN!

YOU RIGGED A BOOMERANG PIE AND FLIPPED IT DOWN THE CORRIDOR AS YOU STARTED IN. THEN YOU PRETENDED TO HEAR SOMEONE CALL YOUR NAME AND STEPPED BACK RIGHT IN THE PIE'S PATH--RIGHT WHERE YOU KNEW IT WOULD GO.

LET'S PUT IT TO A VOTE. EVERYONE HERE WHO THINKS BOOMERBUTT THREW THE PIES, RAISE YOUR FISTS.

S'OKAY! I DID IT! SO WHAT?! WHATCHER GONNA DO, EH? TOSS ME OFF THE SQUAD?! BIG HAIRY DEAL! I QUIT!!

SO--WHATCHER GONNER DO TO ME NOW, EH?!

FAT LADY!

CHUPPA-CHUPPA
CHUPPA CHUPPA
STOP IT, Y'BLOODY BIKE! YER GONNER KILL ME!
I WISH! IT'S ONLY A TEN FOOT FALL, BOOMERBUTT! AND ONLY TWENTY MILES TO AUSTRALIA--AS THE FISH SWIMS! ISLAND'S GOT LOTS OF WATER AND FOOD--IF YOU LIKE FRUIT. ONLY THING IT HASN'T GOT IS PEOPLE!
SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW HOME, SLIMEBALL!
GYAAAAH!
POONT!
TA TA!
CHUPPA CHUPPA
COME BACK HERE, YA BLOODY COW! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE! YOU HEAR ME?!
CHUPPA-CHUPPA
COME BACK HEEEEERE!

YEAGER FIELD, A FEW CHANGES OF PLANE LATER...

YOU'RE LOOKING MORE CHIPPER.

CALL IT PETTY, CALL IT A MEAN STREAK--BUT I DO FEEL BETTER.

BOOMERBUTT IS GONE AND THE MAD PIEMAN IS HISTORY!

SPLUT!

ME, I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING TO HOLDING UP TRADITION.

"WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?"

SPLUT!

NEXT: SECRETS OF THE BRONZE TIGER!

SUICIDE NOTES

DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-In-Chief
DICK GIORDANO, VP-Editorial
DAN RASPLER, Editor
RICHARD BRUNING, Design Director
TERRI CUNNINGHAM, Managing Editor
BOB ROZAKIS, Production Director
PAUL LEVITZ, Executive VP & Publisher
JOE ORLANDO, VP-Creative Director
BRUCE BRISTOW, VP-Sales & Marketing
MATTHEW RAGONE, Circulation Director
TOM BALLOU, Advertising Director
PATRICK CALDON, VP & Controller

1-5317

Bob, John, and Kim:

Upon the urging of some people at the Chicago ComicCon, I went and purchased an issue of SUICIDE SQUAD #32. Then I took a very bold step—I read it.

Good story, decent art. But the individual characterizations were the real draw. In many team books, you can't tell who's talking except for seeing whose mouth the balloon is coming out of. Not here. Each character has a very distinct personality and there's lots going on beneath the surface. I was also lucky in that #32 was a single-issue story so I wasn't coming into the middle of a multi-part saga, which I hate doing.

Next I bought a copy of issue #1. That was it. I'm hooked. I've asked a dealer friend of mine to locate all the other back issues for me.

Now, to issue #33. Wow! Writing brilliant as usual, but enhanced by John K. Snyder III's art. His renderings of the human (or not-so-human) eye convey so much more than mere words can. Especially the looks of madness.

My only quibble is that I had no idea who the woman kidnapped on page 6 was until I read the letters column. Even now I'm only guessing that it's Nightshade. I know I'm new here, but some clues to her identity would have been nice.

Now, on to Apokolips. Do I really have to wait four weeks for the next issue?

Cheryl Harris
#1 305 Trinity Court
Princeton, NJ 08543

Good point, Cheryl. We'll try to be clearer in future—Dan.

*****

Hiya, John,

I just read SUICIDE SQUAD #32 and it was great! The new Squad is what can only be described as one serious kickass group!

First, I like Dr. McCoy. This guy is clearly the Wall's equal and he really knows his stuff. I like the fact that he doesn't let Amanda intimidate him and since he and Jack are old friends that should give you a vehicle to delve into his character more deeply. I can tell there's a lot more to him than just his script and a good voice. He handled himself very well when asked about the Ayatollah's hit list. Maybe you could do a story where Amanda is either 1) put in a coma or 2) kidnapped, and let Jack try to fill her spot for a while. And maybe let him show some of Mac's defiance.

Next, Shade's character seems very one-dimensional of late—do something, will ya? For once I really don't have any suggestions for what to do, just do somethin'!

I like what's been done with Digger a lot. I know you've got t'be wondering what I'm talking about. Well, I'm not sure if anyone else noticed, but since Dr. Light joined the Suicide Squad he's been gettin' a lot of respect. He's still a jerk but now he's actually an asset to the team; one thing that's always bothered me about him, though, is that he's always been so one-dimensional. He's a jerk and that's it, basically. Why not give him a couple of sessions with Mac? Even if he doesn't say a word that could be revealing in itself.

And just for the record, I like the way Ravan thinks, too, but hasn't anyone else noticed that he hasn't made a single sacrifice since he joined the Squad?

Donnie Matthews
Route 2 Box 614
Ararat, VA 24053

With the things we have planned for the future, it's unlikely we'll be seeing Jack try to run the Squad (ominous rumblings...). Also, Digger has been sent away, as of this issue, so it's quite unlikely we'll have a chance to get into his head over the next several issues. By the way, speaking of our Mad Pie-Thrower, the only person to guess his identity prior to this issue was comics shop owner Jim Foehl, out on Long Island.

*****

Salutations,

At last! Shade is getting more credit in bigger roles in SS! Aside from Booster Gold, Shade is my favorite DC character. I know for a fact that Shade can't return to Meta because Pete Milligan is writing a maxi-series about Shade traveling about America.

What's up? I have a feeling Duchess is going to doublecross everyone and serve the Suicide Squad up to Darkseid and/or Granny Goodness. (You're right, Rac, it is dishonorable, but I want to see you back on Meta as much as you do to see Olon and Sagan and especially Mellu.)

I see Bronze Tiger and company as following team #1 to Apokolips, perhaps accompanied by Mister Miracle. How about a match between Granny Goodness and the Wall? Talk about a fight—wowzer.

When Shade leaves (as soon as SS returns to Earth), I imagine Vixen and The Wall will kick his butt.

At any rate, I have one last comment: last issue, when Shade was on the cover, he had an exploding bracelet on—how come? He isn't an inmate at Belle Reve, he hasn't a criminal record.

Robert J. Spassov
7097 Dolphin Street
Bolivar, OH 44612

Granny Goodness against the Wall? What a cool idea! And sorry about Shade's bracelet on the cover. And as for Shade, as you have learned by now, he is back in Meta and resting up before returning in Spring 1990 in his very own series. Pete Milligan was so inspired by his recent tour of America he felt he had enough material for a monthly. Pete will be joined by a new find, Chris Bachalor, and it'll be great.

*****

Dear Bob,

Re: SUICIDE SQUAD #32.

During the mission, the team was effective and efficient. And kind of ... dull.

But the last two pages prove that this was the calm before the storm.

Looking forward to that.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

"Storm" is putting it mildly, if you ask me, Melissa. How did you like SQUAD #35's 21-page fight scene?

*****

Dear Dan,

"Steel Trap" was a very good self-contained action story. It was also a nice break from the multi-part *Janus Directive* and the emotional highlights of last issue's "Personal Lives" annual. While I enjoyed seeing all the main characters employed and using their powers and skills, the Bronze Tiger and Vixen were the most impressive. It may be pushing it after the DEADSHOT mini-series and the prospects of a solo Nightshade feature, but I'd like to see these two in

their own adventure someday. They not only have superpowers and skills, but each also has enough emotional baggage to create a personal, imaginative storyline.

The new addition to the staff, Dr. McCoy, is already locking horns with Amanda and I love it! She is slowly losing control, and I hope that this is the foundation for a turning point in the woman's life. Placing Kale on a hit list is an interesting turn of events, and again the root of a potentially explosive subplot. SUICIDE SQUAD #31 shows why this book consistently remains one of the best-plotted DC series.

In closing, let me say that I'm eagerly awaiting the Squad's arrival on Apokolips, and the arrival of Poison Ivy in the Squad. It will be fun to see this deadly siren try to vamp her way under the skin of some of the male members.

Jim Kelly
20 Randall Avenue Apt. 1W
Freeport, NY 11520

*****

Dear Editor,

Reading SUICIDE SQUAD #32, I'd have to say that comicdom's answer to *The A-Team* did rather well this time. Nice to see that you're keeping up on current events (like Ravan on page 9, panel 4), which keeps things nice and fresh. I also got a charge out of the Bronze Tiger's bit with Major Victory on page 10. Absolutely priceless. I kept thinking about the old TV series *Kung Fu* every time I went over this scene. Tell Major Vain to loosen up or hang 'em up and try out for Shakespeare.

Lashina's ready to phone home? *About flamin' time!* Too bad she looks so skinny in her blue costume. Also too bad that it appears you're writing her out of the series. As I recall, in the original MISTER MIRACLE series Lashina, Barda, and the other female Furies were part of MM's act, as a team. I hope something similar to that comes out of this. I can't see her remaining like this forever.

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th Street Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

You'll be happy to know that MM's scribe, Len Wein, has great admiration for the Female Furies and has been talking about having them pay Barda and Miracle a visit. Should be fun, eh?

*****

Dear Dan,

The mission to save Ghavam turned out to be remarkably easy work for the Squad, the only problem being Vixen's understandable revulsion for the man. This left the more interesting events of #32 away from the action. Waller's clash with McCoy highlights the changing role she's being forced to accept after the Janus events. No longer can she wield power unanswerably. There are people around who can openly defy her, and the brakes that, according to Father Craemer, she likes to surround herself with, are a little stronger than she would like. I wonder, in fact, whether she will be able to carry on with her job under these new conditions. I foresee a power struggle, with Waller trying to reassert her authority, and if she can't, she may well consider leaving, even if that would be an even bigger change for the team than Flag's sad death.

As for Flo, her love is, I'm sure, destined to remain unrequited, even if Duchess intends taking her for a little trip to Apokolips. Vixen and Tiger have the advantage in time, animal instincts and, who knows, maybe genuine feelings of attraction.

Various letterwriters commented on the real danger of the Squad's members not surviving, and I agree this is a vital element of the book. I would argue with my friend Mark Lucas's assertion that they should be sent on missions where they'd be *expected* to die. I can't see how loss of life would be a means to an end, except where that end is to weaken the Squad in some way. Whereas a stray bullet might have killed one of them, this issue's trip to Iran should have proved easy for them, and did so, and was still the perfect task for them. I'm sure that not everyone in this issue will still be alive in a year's time, but I expect some of them to at least survive. The likes of Bronze Tiger and Boomerang provide some necessary continuity. The imminent arrival of Poison Ivy could be very interesting, though. Her recent solo Neil Gaiman/Mark Buckingham story added a lot to her character, and I hope to see this continued in this book.

The other angle I think could be given more time is the various team members' attitudes toward their "expendable" situation, and the relatively frequent occurrences of the deaths of colleagues. Statistically, most super-groups can reckon on being intact at the end of an adventure, but this isn't the case here, and that very fact must affect the team, psychologically, quite deeply.

Malcolm Bourne
6 Craigwell Road
Prestwich, Manchester
M25 8EF England

*****

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dan has been spending a lot of time talking with John and Kim about the direction of the series. He has also been talking with management about marketing and other important matters so there is definitely change in the wind. John needed some time to rethink the Squad so he asked me to step in and write the script for the next issue (#38) from his plot. It was a blast to do, especially with all the brainstorming with Dan and John and Kim as we shine the spotlight on Ben Turner. We're not ignoring the Squad as we reveal a few other secrets, but it's mostly Ben Turner vs. Sarge Steel with the life of the Squad hanging on the line. And that's just the set-up for issue #39's explosive story. Luke McDonnell also reappears next issue as layout artist, with Geof Isherwood on tap for finishes. It's an issue you won't want to miss since things start happening at a fast clip.

Meanwhile, John and Dan have things hopping in FIRESTORM as they race toward issue #100. Along for the ride is artist Tom Mandrake, who has really brought a shine to the series. If you haven't checked this series out in a while, now's a good time.

That's it for this issue. We'll see you in a month and until then, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger

FREE POSTER!
Drawn by Kevin Maguire

SUBSCRIBE TO SUPERBOY WITH ALL NEW STORIES! Send only $12.00 for 12 issues for the brand new SUPERBOY series. Send in your order by January 20th and receive issues #1, #2, #3 PLUS A FREE POSTER!

Issues #1–3 will be shipped together with the poster in early March 1990. Please allow 4–6 weeks for shipping. Orders received after January 20th will simply begin with the next available issue.

YES! Send me 12 issues of the new SUPERBOY series PLUS my FREE POSTER. I have enclosed a $12.00 check or money order (U.S. funds only) for each subscription ordered. Please add $5.00 for Canada and $12.00 for foreign.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Year of Birth _____

Make check payable to DC Comics Inc.
Mail to DC Comics Subscriptions, PO Box 6628, Dept. L-87, Baldwin, NY 11510.
Offer expires 3/20/90. Shipment is in March 1990.
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. © DC Comics Inc. © 1989 All Rights Reserved.